

**Governor's Family Violence Council**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention**  
**Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention**  
**100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Room, Side B**  
**Crownsville, MD 21032**  
**Wednesday, July 10, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Jeanne Yeager, Chair  
Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Vice-Chair  
Linda Alexander for Secretary Dennis Schrader  
Barbara Darley for V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Debbie Feinstein, Esq.  
Trisha Gentle  
Lt. Diane Hansen for Colonel William Pallozzi  
Lisae Jordan, Esq. for Delegate Kriselda Valderrama  
Michael Lore for Senator Susan Lee  
Lisa Nitsch  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Scott G. Patterson, Esq.  
Manuel Ruiz  
Laure Ruth, Esq.  
Delegate Haven Shoemaker  
David Shultie  
Neshanna Turner  
Anne Weatherholt  
Carrie Williams, Esq. for Attorney General Brian Frosh

**Guests:**

Steve Holt, Department of Housing and Community Development  
Karen Keyser, Baltimore county Department of Social Services  
Madeline Ross, Department of Housing and Community Development  
Shawn Westley, Westley's Wellness

**Staff:**

Rebecca Allyn, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Heather Amador, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention  
Eugene Johnson, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

## **II. GOCCP Updates**

Ms. Darley informed the Council that the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention's (the Office) Victim Services Unit (VSU) has been conducting site visits to the comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault programs to better understand the needs of providers. Once these visits are concluded, the VSU will schedule visits with the victim/witness programs at State's Attorney's Offices.

Ms. Darley also informed Council members that a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) has been posted for Protecting Religious Institutions Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to provide support to congregations of all faiths to provide security enhancements for houses of worship and to protect religious institutions from hate crimes. Applications for this program are currently being accepted on an ongoing basis through May 1, 2020. The NOFA can be found at [goccp.maryland.gov](http://goccp.maryland.gov).

Ms. Darley introduced members to Eugene Johnson, Elder Victimization Outreach Coordinator for GOCCP. This new position will also include other special victim populations.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the April 17, 2019 meeting were provided to members and guests. Ms. Nitsch made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Lennig seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

## **IV. Membership Updates**

Ms. Allyn informed members that Delegate Haven Shoemaker and Trisha Gentle have been appointed to the Governor's Family Violence Council. Members welcomed Delegate Shoemaker and Ms. Gentle to the Council.

## **V. Healthy Relationships Program**

Karen Keyser, Family Violence Unit Coordinator with the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, presented on the Healthy Relationships Program offered in Baltimore County. This is a four week educational and informational program to address the needs of first time intimate partner abuse offenders, where no weapons were involved in the crime or no injuries sustained to the victim(s).

Several Council members voiced their concern regarding this program as there is no oversight, like with abuse intervention programs, and four weeks isn't enough time to develop change in behavior. Members discussed to form a small committee to research the concerns of the program, and research pretrial programs related to domestic violence.

## **VI. Homeless Management Information System for Domestic Violence Providers**

In January, Stuart Campbell addressed the Council on an issue with a data system through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) used by domestic violence providers who receive homelessness funding.

Steve Holt, with DHCD, informed members that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has specific reporting requirements and there are no confidentiality

protections for VAWA compliance. DHCD requested, and was approved for, technical assistance (TA) by HUD to find a solution to ensure domestic violence providers are meeting both HUD and VAWA regulations and requirements. A meeting has been scheduled in August with domestic violence providers, Continuum of Care providers with the TA providers. Council members were pleased with the diligent work of DHCD to work on a solution for this issue.

## **VII. Workgroup Updates**

### *a. Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases*

Ms. Lennig informed members that the workgroup is scheduled to meet on July 25 to review the Criminal Justice Information System's (CJIS) analysis of the data from the courts.

### *b. Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Certification Review Process*

The workgroup met this morning to discuss several items that were suggested for discussion after the certification review process earlier this year. Those items included guidance on letters of support, absences, curriculum, application instructions and license requirements. The workgroup decided to add acceptable examples for the license requirements in the application and guidelines and add an absence policy to the guidelines. For letters of support, the workgroup agreed that the application should clarify what the working relationship with the domestic violence provider and the AIP should look like, and require that a memorandum of understanding is put in place between the AIP and the domestic violence provider.

## **VIII. Vote: 2019-2020 Workgroup**

Members reviewed the workgroup topics for the 2019-2020 calendar year. These workgroup topics included intimate partner violence, protective and peace orders, analyzing VINE and VPO, and best practices for visitation centers in the state of Maryland. Members voted and approved Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy as the area of study for FY 2020. The Council also voted to continue the Fingerprinting in Domestic Violence Cases Workgroup for FY 2020. The Abuse Intervention Program Workgroup will also be an ongoing workgroup as the Council is the certifying body of abuse intervention programs in Maryland.

Members were reminded they are required to participate in at least one workgroup.

## **IX. Old/New Business**

There was nothing to report.

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Main Conference Room, 1st Floor - Side B

100 Community Place

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